



FIRST UNITED
CHURCH of CHRIST
Northfield · Minnesota

The Chronicle

Church of Christ, Congregational

A monthly newsletter of The First

300 Union Street, Northfie

55057

An Open and Affirming, Just Peace Church

Tuesday, January 1 New Year's Day

No Worship Services
Church Office closed


Sunday, January 6 Epiphany

9:50-11:15 a.m. Childcare for infants through age 2
10:00 a.m. Taize Service of Healing
Readings:
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17
10:15 a.m. First Sunday of the Month activities (for ages 3 through grade 6)
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
No Junior Bell Choir
4:00 p.m. Confirmation
5:30 p.m. Senior High Youth (grades 10-12)

A Taize Service of Healing will be held on Sunday, January 6 at 10:00 am. Special music, prayer, lighting of candles and silence are parts of this service. Leaders of the Taize service will be Lynne and John Severson, Bob Griggs, Andrea Een, Geoffrey Carlisle, Chris Brunelle, Ann and Bob Gregory-Bjorklund, and Bob Kahn will be providing music for the morning. All are welcome to attend this special contemplative

service. (Children through grade 6, will be excused early during the service to participate in age appropriate activities.)

Sunday, January 13 First Sunday after Epiphany

9:50-11:15 a.m. Childcare for infants through age 2
10:00 a.m. Worship, Baptism, Communion, Spirit Voices and Lori Dokken 
Preacher: Damen Heitmann
Readings: Isaiah 42:1-9,
Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43,
Matthew 3:13-17
10:15 a.m. Sunday School (for ages 3 through grade 6)
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
11:15 a.m. Budget Hearing
11:15 a.m. Junior High Youth
4:00 p.m. Confirmation

Lori Dokken will lead music in our worship service. Some of you met and heard Lori when she played a service last January at 1st UCC. Some of you may know her as a veteran of the music scene in the Twin Cities, or as former music director at Minnehaha UCC. Lori is dynamic! Come join her, with Spirit Voices, for a soulful, energetic morning.

Sunday, January 20 Second Sunday after Epiphany

9:50-11:15 a.m. Childcare for infants through age 2
10:00 a.m. Worship

Preacher: Bob Griggs
Readings:

1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42
10:15 a.m. Sunday School (for ages 3 through grade 6)
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
11:15 a.m. Annual Meeting
11:15 a.m. Junior High Youth
4:00 p.m. Confirmation
5:30 p.m. Senior High Youth (grades 10-12)

Sunday, January 27 Third Sunday after Epiphany

9:50-11:15 a.m. Childcare for infants through age 2
10:00 a.m. Worship, Angel and Rainbow choirs
Preacher: Bob Griggs
Readings:
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
10:15 a.m. Sunday School (for ages 3 through grade 6)
11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
11:15 a.m. Junior High Youth
4:00 p.m. Confirmation

Looking Ahead

§ **Sunday, February 3:**
Sandy Johnson returns

§ **Wednesday, February 6:**
Ash Wednesday

§ **Sunday, March 15:**

**Palm/Passion Sunday
Children's Musical**

**§ Sunday, March 23:
Easter Sunday**



Dear Friends,
(From your Sabbatical
Supply Pastor)

Sue and I want to thank everyone who shared Christmas greetings with us and helped to make our Christmas with you joyous and deeply satisfying. We are grateful to have spent Advent and Christmas as part of your church family.

Many people, both staff and lay members, contributed to all the activities and services that helped us to mark the season. When necessary members stepped into unfamiliar roles to make sure the traditions of the church were honored while doing some new things as well. Thank you.

My best memories of the season include the music of Chris, Theo, Bob, Janet, the choirs – adult and youth – as well as our soloists. I've never celebrated Christmas in a church with such a wealth and variety of musical talent. Another good memory was sitting quietly at the end of the Longest Night Service Cathy Cammack planned, just being still and watching the candles. I remember Christmas Eve when so many children of the church stood in awe before the holy family, and then the second service when our seminarian, Damen Heitmann, helped us to place the ancient story in the context of our own day.

One memory I'll never let go of, comes from one of the Advent dinners Cher Duys did so much to plan. There were a dozen or so of us at a table making paper chains to decorate the Christmas tree in the assembly room. From youngest child to oldest adult, we could have been a four generation family. We were a family - a church family. When we were finished, we joined our individual paper chains with the chains other people at our table had made, and then connected this one chain with all the chains from the other tables before putting the one very long chain on the tree. I've

talked about symbols all during Advent, and I love this one.

And now we move from Advent/Christmas into a new year. With God's grace and our lives sustained by the church family we share, this new year can be a time when we grow in our commitment to love and serve in the name of the one born at Bethlehem.

Bob Griggs

Bookkeeping position open

We have a flexible, part time bookkeeping position available at the Church. Person will maintain all financial records. Payroll and Excel experience helpful. Approximately 12.25 hours per week. Salary DOE. If you or someone you know is interested, application letters and resumes should be submitted to the church office by January 12.

Office Volunteers needed:

January 22 through 29 and February 20 through 28 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Backpack collection

This year ISLA is starting 45 new students in Jalapa, Nicaragua on scholarships, in addition to continuing with our previous students. We are looking for 45 gently used backpacks for these new students. Please drop the backpacks off at church (between now and January 6). Thanks, Mary Carlson (645-4593).

WOW's

Wow's will meet again on Wednesday, January 16 at 9:30 a.m. in the Dining Room at the Northfield Manor.

Church Office Hours

June through August
Monday through Thursday
7:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

September through May
Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Phones

(507) 645-7532, 645-4694

Fax (507) 645-0930

Websites

www.firstucc.org
www.confirmationucc.blogspot.com
www.uccjrhigh.blogspot.com

Staff

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sandyjohnson@firstucc.org

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Seminary Intern:
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chrisbrunelle@firstucc.org

Director of Children's Music: Janet
Lewis Muth, janetmuth@firstucc.org

Director of Spirit Voices:
Bob Gregory-Bjorklund
bobgregory@firstucc.org

Organist: Theo Wee
theowee@firstucc.org

Office Manager: Elaine Malecha
church@firstucc.org

Bookkeeper: Sarah Dennett
sarahdennett@firstucc.org

Custodian: Ron Olson

Childcare Coordinator: Tracy O'Neill

Night Security: Mark Fischer

Officer
Moderator: David Bly



In our Prayers

John Fossum who has returned home safely from Afghanistan.

Jean Boardman who is celebrating the birth of a fourth grandson, Maxwell Jett Boardman

Deane and Ian Barbour who are celebrating their 60th anniversary.

Jan and Ross Shoger who are celebrating their 50th anniversary.

Adrienne Mohrig who fell and broke her wrist.

Cissi Shannon celebrating her return from church after foot surgery.

Sandy Johnson that her sabbatical be a satisfying time of rest and renewal.

Mike and Daisy Christopherson and their family whose daughter, Avalon Lia Christopherson, was stillborn. A service for Avalon was held on December 8.

College students and other traveling during the holidays.

Lynn and Bob Bruce who are grateful to be safely home in Northfield from Thailand.

Den Brown, leader of the UCC youth board, whose daughter was tasered to death in North Carolina.

Doris, friend of Bernice Schendel, who is in the last day of her life.

Joyce, friend of Bernice Schendel, who recently died.

Bob Bruce for health concerns.

The six hundred musicians at St. Olaf who presented the Christmas festival.

Kate, sister of Leota Goodney, who is in hospice care, and for those who care for her.

Kathy Bingham, our former pastoral care coordinator, who was recently

approved for ordination in the Unitarian Universalist Church.

Patti Rhodes celebrating her daughter's visit from North Carolina.

Remembering Anne Kelley, faithful member of our church.

Cher Duys, whose Uncle Ken is dealing with early onset Alzheimer's.

Nancy Carrie rejoicing in the birth of a baby to friends who had lost a child to SIDS a year ago.

For compassion and our city of Northfield during its current political crisis.

The parents of Beth Kallestad for safe travels from Maine to Minnesota during the holidays.

Jan and Ross Shoger whose home was damaged by fire on Christmas Eve.

Pastoral Ponderings

Back in the late 60's and early 70's, I decorated my bedroom and dorm room with symbols of peace. I had large peace signs on the wall, I had stationary showing a hand formed into the "V" peace sign, and I had this framed poster that reminded me that "War is Not Healthy for Children and Other Living Things". But, then I "got responsible". I married, had children, and became part of that "establishment" I once eschewed.

Last fall, I went on a trip. When I came home, Steve, my husband, had a surprise for me. He had "personalized" my vehicle for me. There were new seat covers, a bug shield, and this huge peace sign spare tire cover. To say the least, I was a bit shocked. You see, the "peace movement" was a point of contention between us. We had been friends since high school. While I was decorating my dorm room with peace signs, he was in Viet Nam. Years later, we reconnected. (This time it

worked.) We married and moved to the Minneapolis area where he began working for, of all things, a company that did/ does defense contracts with the military. I have to admit, I am still a bit shocked that he would put the peace sign on my Jeep. It doesn't "fit". However, what I now realize is, my husband has always been for peace. He didn't believe in the war in Viet Nam, but he did believe in his country. He doesn't believe in the war now, but he does believe in keeping his country safe. His putting that peace sign on my Jeep is his way of telling me that we both do want the same thing.

This simple symbol has caused me to look at my own beliefs. How strongly do I really feel? Trust me, I have gotten several "hand signals" from "guys in big trucks" as I head down to Northfield on I-35. They are not always in the "V" position; although, a few have been. And, this symbol has caused me to think twice when I want to let another driver know just what I think about his/her driving.

Symbols in themselves have no power. The way we use those symbols does. No wonder it took the early Christians such courage to identify themselves as followers of Christ. It's easy to stand behind a belief when it isn't obvious or isn't challenged. I just wonder if I would have had the courage to so blatantly identify myself as a Christian back then, in the way I want to identify myself as a peace advocate today.

Peace always, *Cathy*



Prayer Chain

Call Cathy at church if you have a prayer need for the prayer chain or if you want to join the prayer chain. This requires no meetings, no contributions---just your agreement to hold the needs of others in your personal prayer intentions.

Interested in supporting a family?

Geoff Tisdale, a member of this church, is serving a second deployment in Iraq. We are showing support for him, his wife Gigi, and their three school age children by providing Monday night meals during the school year. Bobbie Peterson is coordinating these meals. If you are interested and able to make this gesture once or occasionally, please speak to Bobbie, call her at 645-6782, or e-mail bobbie@rconnect.com. Thank you to all of you who have already shared a Monday night dinner with the Tisdales!



\$4,056.80 was given at the 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve services and was divided between these three ministries:

\$1,352.26 to the Christmas Fund of the UCC, for emergency needs for retired clergy.

\$1,352.26 to the Alliance of the Streets, supporting homeless families and individuals in the Twin Cities.

\$1,352.26 to the CAC, which helps families in Northfield achieve self-sufficiency.

Kathy Baughman Approved for Ordination

Kathy Baughman, who served us as Pastoral Care coordinator before Cathy Cammack, was approved for ordination in the Unitarian Universalist Association on Saturday, December 1, 2007. She received a "1", which is their highest recommendation.

Her ordination will be some time this spring in Kansas.

She wants to thank all the folks at First UCC who were so important in her formation as a minister, and for all their encouragement as she discerned her vocation as a chaplain.

Chick Chat

The Women's Spirituality Group (aka Chick Chat) will meet on Saturday, January 19, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.. Please bring ideas of a book you would like to read as a group, a movie you think the group may enjoy, and an outing we can consider for March.

We will also meet on Saturday, February 9, at 2:00 p.m. at Bittersweet for our own Valentine's tea. Although Bittersweet no longer serves a "high tea", we can have the back room and buy our tea by the cup.

Shawl Knitters schedule



Shawl knitters will meet in the Assembly Room at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 3.

Couple's Communication Group

Please call Beth Kallestad at 645-0672 or Cathy Cammack at 645-7532 if you are interested in a couple's communication group. We are in the planning stage of this and need to know how many couples are interested.

From the national office of the UCC

The national office of the United Church of Christ have provided us with a list of congregations that they recognize as "Covenant Keepers" for fiscal 2006. The records indicate that five congregations in the Minnesota Conference of the UCC contribute 15% or more of their local current expenses to Our Church's Wilder Mission. They are: Zion UCC, Long Prairie (recently merged with the Long Prairie United Methodist Church to form Peace United Church); Granite Falls UCC; Congregational UCC, Fairmont; Congregational UCC, Ortonville; First UCC, Northfield; and the UCC in New Brighton. We give thanks for the commitment of these congregations in striving to meet the challenge set at Fourteenth General Synod (1983) of contributing to OCWM an amount equal to at least twenty-five percent of local current expenses. In 2006, ten of our congregations gave between 10% and 15% of current local expenses to OCWM. They are: The Federated Church, Morris; Robbinsdale UCC; The Congregational Church, Madison; Union Congregational UCC, Elk River; Zion UCC, Le Sueur; First Congregational UCC, Grand Marais; First Congregational UCC, Montevideo; The Congregational Church, Rochester; New Spirit UCC, Savage; and UCC, Gaylord.

Christian Education



Children

10:15 a.m. Sundays
on Sunday School level.

First Sundays: Grades 4-6 participate in worship; preschool-grade 3 multi-age class.

The children's worship bags are now hanging up outside the south-east Sanctuary door.

The children's books are now in the children's library on the Sunday School level along with videos, cd's and more.



Angel Choir (for ages 4 through Kindergarten) rehearse at 3:30 p.m. on most Wednesdays.
Janet Muth, director



Rainbow Choir (for grade 2 through 5) rehearse at 4:15 p.m. on most Wednesdays.
Janet Muth, director

Children's Musical

The Children's Music Program will be producing a musical this spring - to be performed in worship on Palm Sunday. Rehearsals will take place during Wednesday evening Lenten gatherings and on some Sundays throughout Lent. All children who are interested will be welcome. Auditions for 2-6 lead parts will take place during January. Watch the bulletin for details or contact Janet Muth with questions.

Junior High Youth

Grades 7 & 8
11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sundays
<http://uccjrhigh.blogspot.com>

Thanks to all parents who've brought snacks and have been helpers. More opportunities available for January-May, see list posted outside junior high lounge.

§ No class January 27 due to retreat day before



Although there is usually Junior Bell Choir on the first Sunday of the month, there will be **no youth bell rehearsal on the First Sunday of January.**

Janet Muth, director.

Junior High Retreat - January 26, 2008 from 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. at Peace UCC, Rochester.

Information and registration forms in past emails, on church bulletin board or register online:
www.peacechurchucc.org/iFaith_Reg_Form.pdf Cost: \$5.00. Registration deadline (to Peace UCC) - January 15.

Senior High Youth

Confirmation Youth (CY)
4:00-6:00 p.m. Sundays
(including supper)
www.confirmationucc.blogspot.com

Post Confirmation Youth
§ January 6: No meeting due to RETREAT later in month
§ January 18-20: Retreat up north at Stano's cabin. See emails or church bulletin board for more information and registration forms. Registration deadline: Sunday, January 13.

2007 Senior High Mission Trip
Youth REUNION January 6, 2007:
6:00-7:30 p.m. at church

Senior High Mission Trip - July 25-August 4, 2008 to Alamosa, Colorado, Habitat for Humanity and LaPuente. Watch for more details.

Please continue supporting the Senior High service project by dropping off diapers for the food shelf.

Adults/Intergenerational



Senior Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. and on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Chris Brunelle, director

Spirit Voices
Bob Gregory-Bjorklund, director



Adults needed:
February 1-3: **Our Whole Lives Sexuality** training at 1st UCC

Please contact Cher Duys if you are:

- § Interested in being trained to co-lead this excellent curriculum for grades 6-9 or 10-12?
- § Able to donate food? Housing for adults? Be a Hospitality team member?

More information about the joint UCC/UUA comprehensive, faith based curriculum at:
www.ucc.org/justice/sexuality_education/our-whole-lives.html

Sanctuary Notes

- § *Pockets* magazines and board books in name tag kiosk.
- § Worship bags outside south-east sanctuary door.
- § More books in Children's Library on Sunday school level.

- § Please reserve the rocking chairs for families with infants.
- § Nursery available for infants – 2 years

Christian Peacemaker to speak on Palestine experience

At 7:00 p.m. on January 10, 2008 the United Methodist Church will host an NJP (Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/Israel) presentation by a Christian Peacemaker Team member, Abigail Ozanne. Abigail grew up in Minneapolis and learned about the Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) as a college student. She had two three-month experiences on the West Bank between September 2006 and April 2007. Founded by Mennonite, Church of the Brethren, and Quaker churches, CPT is funded entirely by donations and enjoys the support and membership of a wide range of Christian denominations.

Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/Israel is an ecumenical group with representatives and support from at least seven mainline denominational churches in Northfield, including UCC, United Methodist, St. Dominic's and St. John's. NJP members are called by their faith to respond to the very difficult situations of individuals in Palestine/Israel. While injustices seem to be suffered disproportionately by Palestinians, the concerns of Israelis are to be taken seriously as well. NJP works with the goals of raising awareness of the situation in the occupied territories, offering regular educational opportunities, and supporting various forms of advocacy and action.

NJP members are committed to staying current on the lives of ordinary people in the region, and in fact, four group members traveled to Palestine this summer. This year the group has held several events in

Northfield that included speakers, panels, films, and the recent Palestinian Fair. The group offers the sale of Palestinian Fair Trade products, and is committed to sharing information broadly.

If you would like to receive group emails on this topic or simply learn more about NJP, please contact the SSR Committee or Mary Wood at mwoodinmn@gmail.com



- § for all those who remembered UCC staff during the holidays.
- § for your purchase of Palestinian Fair Trade Olive oil soap, and olive wood carvings totaled \$1506. This will go directly to cooperatives in Bethlehem and the West Bank for education and arts projects for youth to bring hope and healing in conflict zones, and replanting of olive trees for livelihood.
- § to all who followed Jesus' teaching of caring for others and our creation during advent:
- § *to Grades 4-6* who made food packets for "Feed My Starving Children"
- § *to Grades 7 & 8* who bought gifts for the CAC Christmas Sharing; Made and lit the luminaries for our Christmas Eve services
- § *to Grades 10-12* who served at the food shelf
- § *to all the Intergenerational Advent Gathering folks* made holiday cards for our Shut-in's; recycled holiday chains for our assembly room tree. Thanks to all who shared food for the events!
- § and to the adults who supported the Sunday school leaders by helping in class. More opportunities available for January-

May. Sign-up list posted outside classes.

First UCC presents 'the girls' in concert

"The girls," four talented women whose harmonic blend and unique styling breathes new life into jazz, ballads and R&B standards, will perform in concert Saturday, February 9, at 7:30 p.m. at the church, and you are all invited.

Lori Dokken, Judi Donaghy, Erin Schwab (from Tony & Tina's Wedding) and Patty Peterson of the legendary Peterson family are familiar faces and voices on the Twin Cities music scene. Their tight, four-part harmony has been delighting Twin Cities' audiences for the past six years. Lori Dokken, an outstanding pianist, played for one of our services last year and will be back on Sunday, January 13, for more of the same.

Tickets are \$10. For this to be a success, we need as many of you as possible to become members of our sales team. If you buy four tickets, we will give you five. If you buy eight, we will give you 10. You can do whatever you want with your tickets, but our hope is that you sell them to others, give them to others, anything that will draw as many people as possible to our church for an exciting evening of song.

We will be selling tickets after church, beginning January 13. They will also be available at the First UCC office between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday or by "will call" by phoning 507-645-7532 or e-mailing to: church@firstucc.org.

The concert is an outgrowth of the Manna Task Force. It is designed to raise the profile of our church in the community and give old friends and new visitors a sample of our extravagant hospitality. If you have any questions, contact Scott Richardson, Sue Mieska or Mary Hakes.